

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Seniors

Are you or is someone you know at least 55 years of age and experiencing vision loss or a combined vision and hearing loss?

Project Independence could help.

This vision program for seniors is administered by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and provides services that can help you remain independent. Services may include:

- Comprehensive low vision evaluations by qualified professionals to assess your needs
 - Skills training in your home community by certified rehabilitation specialists
 - Mobility training by certified instructors
 - Support groups that offer opportunities to learn from and interact with peers
 - Assistive devices such as talking watches, big button phones and magnifiers
-

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency contracts with these Project Independence Service Providers:

Center for the Visually Impaired

739 West Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-875-9011
1-800-558-5451 (for infolink only)
www.cviga.org
Serves Northeast and Central Georgia

Mons International

6595 Roswell Road #224
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
770-551-8455
1-800-541-7903
www.magnifiers.com
Serves Southwest Georgia

Savannah Center for Blind and Low Vision

214 Drayton Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
912-236-4473
www.SavannahCBLV.org
info@SavannahCBLV.org
Serves Southeast Georgia

Vision Rehabilitation Services of Georgia

3830 South Cobb Drive SE
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
770-432-7280

www.vrsga.org

Serves Northwest Georgia

Visually Impaired Specialized Training and Advocacy Services (VISTAS)

337 South Milledge Avenue, Suite 114
Athens, Georgia 30605-5662
706-995-2216
706-583-8844

www.vistascenter.com

Serves Northeast Georgia

Walton Options for Independent Living

948 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30903-0519
706-724-6262
1-877-821-8400

www.waltonoptions.org

Serves East Georgia

Kay McGill, Project Independence Program Manager
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
755 Commerce Drive, Suite 615
Decatur, Georgia 30030-2627
404-638-5208
TTY: Call GA Relay 711
Fax: 404-638-5201
kay.mcgill@gvra.ga.gov

Paul Raymond, Director of Blindness Services
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
2720 Riverside Drive, Suite 132
P.O. Box 7566
Macon, Georgia 31209-7566
478-751-6234
Fax: 478-314-6814
paul.raymond@gvra.ga.gov

ADVOCACY/EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND (AFB)

The American Foundation for the Blind created "AFB Senior Site" to help older Americans and their family members cope with age-related eye diseases, a growing public health problem in the United States.

www.afb.org

GEORGIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND (GCB)

GCB is a nonprofit consumer organization affiliated with the American Council of the Blind. We strive to elevate the social, economic, and cultural levels of the blind. For over 40 years, GCB has been working toward providing a forum for views of the blind, improving education and rehabilitation, and broadening vocational opportunities for the visually impaired. Peer support is an important part of GCB as it encourages and assists the blind in developing their abilities and potential to become independent and responsible citizens in their communities. Peer support is especially helpful for the newly blind who may be confused or bitter. GCB works hard to educate the public about the problems of blindness and the needs and capabilities of the blind.

Georgia Council of the Blind

850 Gaines School Road

Athens, GA 30605

Toll Free: 1-888-519-3988

Fax: 706-549-1060

www.georgiacounciloftheblind.org

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF GEORGIA (NFB)

Negative attitudes and mistaken perceptions about blindness are the largest barriers to our independence and full participation in society. Unfortunately, many people believe that blind people should be relegated to the role of dependent, custodial beneficiaries of society's good will. Equally as offensive, others feel the blind are extraordinary simply because we perform the fundamental tasks and accept the basic responsibilities that are expected from all citizens. To counter these negative attitudes and mistaken perceptions, the NFB of Georgia works aggressively to empower blind people with a positive self-concept of independence and self-worth, while simultaneously educating the public about the true potential of the blind. We strive to promote positive, inclusive perceptions of blind people, so that we can exercise our right, like any other American, to live, work, and play in our communities and be appreciated as everyday people living life every day.

NFB of Georgia

315 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 1020

Decatur, Georgia 30030

404-371-1000

Toll Free: 1-866-316-3242

Fax: 404-371-1002

theblind@nfbga.org

www.nfbga.org

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia, Inc. (SILC)

The SILC of Georgia is a nonprofit, nongovernmental consumer-controlled organization that plays the vital role of providing disability information, financial support, and technical assistance to a network of eight Centers for Independent Living located throughout the state.

SILC of Georgia
Patricia Puckett, Executive Director
Decatur, GA
770-270-6860
Toll Free: 1-888-288-9780
TTY: Call GA Relay 711
Fax: 770-270-5957
ppuckett@silcga.org
www.silcga.org

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are nonresidential, community-based organizations, governed and staffed by people with disabilities that offer a wide variety of services to consumers with disabilities and their families. The foundation of these services is the peer-to-peer relationship, where people with disabilities act as mentors for other people with disabilities, showing them by example how to help themselves and to live independently. The core services that CILs provide are:

- Individual Advocacy and Systems Advocacy
- Peer Counseling
- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training

Depending on the needs of the communities they serve, CILs may provide other services that vary from one center to another. For more information contact the center nearest you.

Access 2 Independence Columbus Center for Independent Living

This new center is beginning to provide independent living skills training and services in Muscogee County only.

Access 2 Independence
3127 Tower Road
Suite B-2
Columbus, GA 31909
706-405-2393
TTY: Call GA Relay 711
www.access2independence.com

BAIN (Bainbridge Advocacy Individual Network)

316 West Shotwell Street

P.O. Box 1674

Bainbridge, GA 39818

229-246-0150

TTY: Call GA Relay 711 / Toll Free: 1-800-255-0135

Fax: 229-246-1715

Serves the following counties in Southwest Georgia: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole and Thomas.

Disability Connections

170 College Street

Macon, GA 31201

478-741-1425

Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-743-2117

Fax: 478-755-1571

Serves the following counties in Central Georgia: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs and Wilkinson.

Disability Resource Center (formerly ACIL)

470-A Woods Mill Drive

Gainesville, GA 30501

770-534-6656

TTY: Call GA Relay 711 / Toll Free: 1-800-255-0135

Fax: 770-534-6626

www.disabilityresourcecenter.org

Serves the following counties in North Georgia: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White.

disABILITY LINK

755 Commerce Drive, Suite 105

Decatur, GA 30030

404-687-8890

TTY: Call GA Relay 711

Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-239-2507

Fax: 404-687-8298

www.disabilitylink.org

Serves the following counties in Metro Atlanta: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale.

disABILITY LINK Northwest

242 North 5th Avenue

Rome, GA 30165

706-314-0008

Toll Free: 1-866-888-7845

TTY: 706-802-0280

Fax: 706-314-0011

Serves the following counties in Northwest Georgia: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield.

LIFE (Living Independence for Everyone)

5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 143-B

Savannah, GA 31419

912-920-2414

Toll Free 800.948.4842

Video Phone 912.257.4834

Fax: 912-920-0007

www.lifecil.com

Serves the following counties in Southeast Georgia: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, McIntosh, Tattnall and Toombs.

Multiple Choices

850 Gaines School Road

Athens, GA 30605

706-549-1020

Toll Free: 1-877-549-1020

Fax/TTY: 706-549-1060

Toll Free Fax/TTY: 1-866-449-2020

www.multiplechoices.us

Serves the following counties in Northeast Georgia: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton.

Walton Options for Independent Living

948 Walton Way

Augusta, GA 30903-5019

Phone/TTY: 706-724-6262

Toll Free: 1-877-821-8400

Fax: 706-724-4044

www.waltonoptions.org

Serves the following counties in East Georgia: Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lincoln, Richmond, Screven, Glascock, Hancock, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes, and Washington.

GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Georgia Talking Book Libraries

Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS)

1800 Century Place NE, Suite 150

Atlanta, GA 30345

404-235-7155

www.georgialibraries.org

Northeast Georgia Talking Book Center

2025 Baxter Street

Athens, GA 30606

706-613-3655

Toll Free: 1-800-531-2063

talkingbooks@athenslibrary.org

www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/talkingbooks

Counties Served: Rabun, White, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, Hart, Elbert, Madison, Jackson, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Barrow, Oconee, Greene, Hancock, Gwinnett, Walton, Morgan, Jasper, Newton and Putnam.

Atlanta Metro Library for Accessible Services

1 Margaret Mitchell Square, 4th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-657-1452

Toll Free: 1-800-248-6701

Fax: 404-756-4618

glass@georgialibraries.org

<http://www.georgialibraries.org/amlas>

Counties Served: Clayton, Cobb, Dawson, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Hall, Henry, Lumpkin and Rockdale.

East Central Georgia Talking Book Center

823 Telfair Street

Augusta, GA 30901

706-821-2625

Fax: 706-724-6762

talkbook@ecgrl.org

www.ecgrl.public.lib.ga.us

Counties Served: Burke, Columbia, Jefferson, Lincoln, Richmond, Wilkes, Taliaferro, McDuffie and Warren.

Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services

301 South Monroe Street

Bainbridge, GA 39819

229-248-2680

Toll Free: 1-800-795-2680

Fax: 229-248-2670

lbph@swgrl.org

www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Counties Served: Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Webster and Worth.

Columbus Library for Accessible Services (CLASS)

Columbus Public Library

3000 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31906
706-243-2686
Toll Free: 1-800-652-0782
Fax: 706-243-2710

sbarnes@cvrls.org

www.cvlga.org/CLASS

Counties Served: Coweta, Troup, Meriwether, Upson, Harris, Talbot, Taylor, Muscogee, Marion, Chattahoochee and Stewart.

Southeast Georgia Talking Book Center

801 Bellevue Avenue
Dublin, GA 31021
478-275-5382
Toll Free: 1-800-453-5541
Fax: 478-275-3821

wdaniel@ocrl.org

www.ocrl.org/dublinitbc.php

Counties Served: Atkinson, Ben Hill, Berrien, Coffee, Crisp, Dooly, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Schley, Sumter, Tift, Turner, Washington, Johnson, Laurens, Treutlen, Glascock, Bleckley, Pulaski, Dodge, Telfair, Wilcox, Wheeler, Montgomery, Toombs and Tattnall.

Middle Georgia Library for Accessible Services

1180 Washington Avenue
Macon, GA 31201
478-744-0877
Toll Free: 1-800-805-7613
Fax: 478-744-0840

harringj@bibblib.org

www.co.bibb.ga.us/library/TBC.htm

Counties Served: Baldwin, Bibb, Butts, Fayette, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Spalding, Twiggs, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Peach, Wilkinson and Macon.

Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library

Sara Hightower Regional Library System

205 Riverside Parkway
Rome, GA 30161
706-236-4618
Toll Free: 1-888-263-0769

staff@nwgatbl.org

www.nwgatbl.org

Counties Served: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield, Carroll, Cherokee, Douglas, Heard, Towns and Union.

Savannah Talking Book Library

Live Oak Public Libraries, Southwest Chatham Branch

14097 Abercorn Street

Savannah, GA 31419

912-925-5382

Toll Free: 1-800-342-4455

Fax: 912-925-8310

lbphsav@liveoakpl.org

www.liveoakpl.org/about/library-for-the-blind-physical.php

Counties Served: Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Glynn, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Ware, Wayne, Emanuel, Jenkins, Screven, Candler, Bulloch, Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty and Evans.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

ALBANY ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE BLIND

The purpose of the Albany ARC for the Blind is to teach individuals to live independently. The organization provides training in independent living skills and adjustment to blindness, as well as a low-vision clinic, computer classes, orientation and mobility, peer support, advocacy, Braille lessons and an overview of what is available in leisure activities. The Albany facility also has a residential component, which will allow out-of-town Georgians to utilize its services.

Albany Advocacy Resource Center for the Blind
1500-B Gillionville Road
Albany, GA 31707
229-888-6852

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND, Inc. (APH)

APH is the world's largest nonprofit organization creating educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are visually impaired.

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.
1839 Frankfort Avenue
P.O. Box 6085
Louisville, KY 40206-0085, U.S.A.
502-895-2405
Toll Free Customer Service: 1-800-223-1839 (U.S. and Canada)
Fax: 502-899-2274
info@aph.org
www.aph.org

AUDIO BIBLES

Braille Bibles International provides the audio Bible in the King James Version to legally blind individuals for a small fee (\$10-\$20) in Braille, large print and audio formats.

Braille Bibles International
P.O. Box 378
Liberty, MO 64069-0378
Toll Free: 1-800-522-4253
Fax: 1-877-822-4253
info@BrailleBibles.org

THE CENTER FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE & INNOVATION, INC.

The Center for Financial Independence & Innovation, Inc. (CFII) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities and their family members advance their financial independence and security. CFII provides a host of financial resources including the Credit-Able loan guarantee program and the new individual development accounts initiative, which may be of assistance in purchasing assistive technology and other items.

The Center for Financial Independence & Innovation, Inc.
315 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 600
Decatur, GA 30030
404-541-9005
Fax: 1-888-724-2287
www.thecfii.org

FRIENDS OF DISABLED ADULTS & CHILDREN (FODAC)

FODAC provides home health equipment (mobility and daily living) to people of any age or any disability, temporary or permanent, for medically necessary and medically helpful reasons. Items are provided for a suggested donation. Clients do not have to qualify financially, but the waiting lists place a priority on medically necessary and low income individuals.

FODAC
4900 Lewis Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770-491-9014
www.fodac.org

GEORGIA LIONS' CAMP FOR THE BLIND

Overnight camp programs in Waycross, Georgia for visually impaired children and adults, ages 6 and up, and their families.

Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind
5626 Laura Walker Road
Waycross, GA 31503
912-283-4320
www.glcb.org

GEORGIA RADIO READING SERVICE (GaRRS)

As the State's only radio reading service, the Georgia Radio Reading Service (GaRRS) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1980 whose mission is to improve the quality of life for every Georgian who is blind, visually-impaired or has difficulty with access to the printed word. Volunteer broadcasters from across Georgia provide approximately 200 different radio shows each month including cover-to-cover readings of magazines, newspapers, and books, population- and issue-specific programming (Seniors, Veterans and Hispanic/Latino News, Transportation), public service announcements and information regarding community support programs. GaRRS' programming is designed to inform listeners of opportunities to obtain or maintain independence in their own communities, increase their personal health outcomes, obtain or maintain self sufficient employment (livable wage), and increase their community involvement, advocacy and socialization.

GaRRS programs are broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week by way of special subchannel radios provided by GaRRS to its subscribers. Listeners can also hear the broadcast via an audio streaming link on GaRRS' website: www.garrs.net.

GaRRS

Jae Traina Cosby, Executive Director
260 14th Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
404-685-2820/2822
Fax: 404-685-2821
Toll Free: 1-800-672-6173
jcosby@gpb.org
garrsinfo@gpb.org
www.garrs.net

GEORGIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (GATEDP)

GATEDP provides a variety of specialized telecommunications equipment to qualified applicants who have difficulty using a standard phone. For those who qualify, the GATEDP staff also offers assistance selecting telecommunications equipment and training on how to use it properly. Example: large button phones with amplification.

GATEDP

Makeba Orr, M.S. CCC-SLP, Coordinator
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103-B
Decatur, GA 30032
404-297-9461
Toll Free: 1-888-297-9461
Fax: 404-297-9465
www.gachi.org

THE HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Founded in 1920 by William Hadley and Dr. E.V.L. Brown, Hadley offers courses free of charge to its blind and visually impaired students and their families, and affordable tuition courses to blindness professionals. Individuals may request a Hadley course catalog in Braille, cassette, large print or CD. Also, Hadley's website provides the catalogs in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat Reader required) or in Rich Text Format for downloading or viewing online.

The Hadley School for the Blind
700 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093-2554
847-446-8111
Toll Free: 1-800-323-4238
Fax: 847-446-9916
info@hadley.edu
www.hadley.edu

NEWSLINE

Anyone who cannot read regular newsprint could qualify for this free service. Many seniors have lost enough vision that reading the daily newspaper is no longer possible. These individuals will enjoy being able once again to participate actively in community affairs. Information is available from more than 300 Newspapers Available. NFB-NEWSLINE® is the only service that makes so much information available to eligible people 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Toll Free: 1-866-504-7300

www.nfb.org

PREVENT BLINDNESS GEORGIA

We serve thousands of Georgians each year with early detection vision screenings, current information on eye health and safety, and assistance with eye examinations and glasses.

Prevent Blindness Georgia

Jenny Pomeroy, CEO

739 West Peachtree Street NW

Atlanta, GA 30308-1137

404-266-0071

www.preventblindness.org

PROJECT REBOOT

This initiative of Tools for Life, the Georgia Tech Act program, provides affordable computer and assistive technology (AT) access to individuals with disabilities, disability groups and disadvantaged communities.

770-491-0198

Toll Free: 1-800-497-8665

www.gatfl.org

READ THIS TO ME

This organization provides a free reading service for people who are blind and low-vision allowing them to have printed documents read to them on the phone.

Requires both a phone and Fax line.

www.readthistome.org

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA)

Veterans and eligible active duty service members can get help for vision loss by first contacting the VIST Coordinator in the VA facility nearest their home. VIST locations can be found on the Blind Rehabilitation Service website at:

<http://www.va.gov/blindrehab>

202-461-7317

Toll Free: 1-800-224-4087

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) AGENCY BLINDNESS SERVICES

The VR Blindness Services unit provides services to help eligible persons with visual disabilities prepare for, start, and maintain competitive employment, thus becoming productive and independent citizens in their communities.

Paul Raymond, Director
2720 Riverside Drive, Suite 132
P.O. Box 7566
Macon, GA 31209-7566
478-751-6234
Fax: 478-314-6814
paul.raymond@gvra.ga.gov

HEARING LOSS RESOURCES

GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED (GACHI)

Since it was established in 1989, the Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired has furthered one mission: to establish and maintain a network of statewide services for the deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, deaf-blind and other individuals and groups with whom we interact.

GACHI Headquarters
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103-B
Decatur, GA 30032
TTY/Voice: 404-292-5312
Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-541-0710
Fax: 404-299-3642
www.gachi.org

TTY/TDD Store (Products for the Hearing Impaired)

Dolores Moore
1250 Womack Avenue
East Point, GA 30344
404-755-0256
TTY/Text: 404-755-0256
Toll Free TTY/Voice: 1-800-578-7189
Fax: 404-752-7863
Info@ttyweb.com
www.ttyweb.com

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION

"Hear Now" is a national nonprofit program committed to assisting those permanently residing in the U.S. who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and have no other resources to acquire hearing aids.

Toll Free: 1-800-648-4327
www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow

HEARING AND VISION LOSS RESOURCES

GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE, INC.

Low cost vision and hearing services for Georgians, including

- full eye exams
- eyeglasses
- eye surgeries
- digital hearing aids
- vision and hearing screenings

Georgia Lions Lighthouse, Inc.

5582 Peachtree Road

Chamblee, GA 30341

404-325-3630

www.lionslighthouse.org

HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER (HKNC) FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS

The mission of HKNC is to enable each person who is Deaf-Blind to live and work in his or her community of choice.

Helen Keller National Center

141 Middle Neck Road

Sands Point, NY 11050

516-944-8900 (8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.)

Fax: 516-944-7302

hkncinfo@hknc.org

www.hknc.org

Paige Berry, Program Director

Senior Adult Services Coordinator

Helen Keller National Center

P.O. Box 980330

Richmond, VA 23298-0330

TTY/Voice: 804-827-0920

Paige.berry@hknc.org

www.hknc.org

Barbara Chandler

SE Regional Representative (AL FL GA MS)

Helen Keller National Center

P.O. Box 380

Concord, GA 30206

404-462-0185 (V)

678-826-9174 (V)

404 -381-8374 (VP)

barbara.chandler@hknc.org

www.hknc.org